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engage the outer wall tissue of a second nasal passage at the first side of the flexible strip of material, the intermediate segment configured to traverse a portion of a user's nose located between the first and second nasal passages, the tendency of the truss member to return to its initial state when flexed acting to stabilize the outer wall tissue and thereby prevent the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages from drawing in during breathing; and

[the] a resilient member positioned adjacent a [first] second side of the flexible strip of material so as together being capable, at least in part, of resilient deformation to allow the truss member to conform to the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages and to provide said truss member with said tendency to return to its initial state when flexed.

3. (Amended)

[The nasal dilator of claim 1 wherein] A nasal dilator for preventing outer wall tissue of nasal passages of a user's nose from drawing in during breathing, comprising:

a flexible truss member having an initial state absent flexure thereof, the truss member including:

a first end region adapted to adhesively engage the outer wall tissue of a first nasal passage;

a second end region adapted to adhesively engage the outer wall tissues of a second nasal passage;

an intermediate segment configured to traverse a portion of the user's nose located between the first and second nasal passages; and

a resilient member included in at least a portion of the first and second end regions and the intermediate segment which resilient member is capable, at least in part, of resilient deformation that, through an

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adhesive substance in contact therewith, tends to cause the first and second end regions to separate from one another after being urged toward one another to give the truss member a tendency to return to its initial state when flexed to thereby act to stabilize the outer wall tissue and so prevent the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages from drawing in during breathing while allowing the truss member to conform to the outer wall tissue of the nasal passages of a user's nose, the truss member [includes] including an adhesive void[,] and [wherein the truss member is] configured to extend about a user's nose such that the intermediate segment traverses an exterior region of the bridge of a nose with the adhesive void located between the truss member and the bridge[, the first end region engaging exterior surface of the outer wall tissue of the first nasal passage and the second end region engaging exterior surface of the outer wall tissue of the second nasal passage].

2 4. (Twice Amended) The nasal dilator of claim 2, and further including:

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an adhesive substance located on [a second] the first side of the flexible strip of material at the first and second end regions thereof, so as together with the resilient member being capable, at least in part, of resilient deformation, the adhesive substance for releasably securing the truss member to the outer wall tissues of the first and second nasal passages.

I 2 5. (Amended) The nasal dilator of claim 2 wherein the flexible strip of material is formed of [an interwoven] a piece of fabric.

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Please cancel claims 10, 12, 14 and 15.

Please rewrite claim 16 as indicated:

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16. (Twice Amended) [The dilator of claim 10 wherein said single body of said truss further includes] A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a pair of spaced-apart end surfaces and a flexible strip of deformable material defining at least in part said pair of spaced apart end surfaces which end surfaces, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces due to said truss including a resilient member with said resilient [means] member positioned adjacent a first side of said flexible strip of deformable material; and
engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces, there being a deformable material between exposed surfaces of any outer wall tissues engaged by said engagement means and said resilient member.

Please cancel claims 18 and 19.

Please rewrite claim 21 as indicated:

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21. (Twice Amended) [The dilator of claim 14 wherein said single body of said truss further includes] A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a pair of spaced-apart end surfaces terminated by end edges at opposite ends of said truss and a flexible strip of deformable material defining at least in part, said pair of spaced[-]apart end surfaces which end surfaces, if forced

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toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces due to a resilient member included therein with said resilient [means] member having opposite ends thereof each ending short of said end edges; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against the said restoring forces, said resilient member being [positioned adjacent] deformably secured to a first side of said flexible strip of material positioned between exposed surfaces of any outer wall tissues engaged by said engagement means and said resilient member.

Please rewrite claim 23 as indicated:

23. (Amended) A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss [with a] having a plurality of resilient [member secured] members therein and having a pair of spaced-apart end surfaces which end surfaces, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reducing force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged said restoring forces.

Please add the following claims:

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24.

The nasal dilator of claim 3 wherein the resilient member includes:

at least one resilient band oriented substantially parallel to a longitudinal extent of the truss, the resiliency of at least one resilient band acting to prevent the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages from drawing in during breathing.

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The nasal dilator of claim 3 further including:

first and second release liners covering the first and second end regions, respectively, of the truss, the first and second release liners being readily removable from the truss first and second end regions to permit the truss member to be secured to the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages.

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The dilator of claim 3 wherein said void is provided by a separating material positioned between the remainder of the truss member and the exposed outer wall tissues of a user's nose.

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The dilator of claim 23 wherein said truss further comprises a flexible strip of deformable material with said plurality of resilient members being positioned adjacent a first side of said flexible strip of deformable material.

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A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of an user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a resilient member therein and having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces with an intermediate segment therebetween which truss, if said end surfaces are forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, has restoring forces resulting therein tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces, said intermediate segment having an extent

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along a transverse direction substantially perpendicular to an extension direction extending along said intermediate segment and said end surfaces which is less than those extents of both said end surfaces along said transverse direction; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces and to hold said truss substantially conformed about said outer wall tissues.

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The dilator of claim 28 wherein said truss further comprises a flexible strip of deformable material with said resilient member being positioned adjacent a first side of said flexible strip of deformable material.

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The dilator of claim 28 wherein a plurality of resilient members are provided in said truss.

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The dilator of claim 28 wherein a substantial portion of said intermediate segment is not so engaged with said outer wall tissues as are said end surfaces by said engagement means when concurrently in contact with those outer wall tissues.

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A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a resilient member therein and having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces with an intermediate segment therebetween which truss, if said end surfaces are forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, has restoring forces resulting therein tending to restore said direct

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spacing between said end surfaces, said resilient member being in contact with an adhesive at a surface thereof oriented at least in part as are said end surfaces of said truss; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces and to hold said truss substantially conformed about said outer wall tissues but without at least a substantial portion of said intermediate segment being so engaged with said outer wall tissues when concurrently in contact therewith.

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The dilator of claim 32 wherein said truss further comprises a flexible strip of deformable material with said resilient member being positioned adjacent a first side of said flexible strip of deformable material.

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The dilator of claim 32 wherein a plurality of separated resilient members are provided in said truss.

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The dilator of claim 32 wherein that portion of said intermediate segment not so engaged with said outer wall tissues when concurrently in contact therewith is provided at least in part by a separating material positioned between the remainder of the truss member and the exposed outer wall tissues of a user's nose.

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36. A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having both a flexible strip of material and a resilient member therein, and further having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces with an intermediate segment therebetween which truss, if said end surfaces are forced toward one

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another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, has restoring forces resulting therein tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces, said resilient member being in contact with an adhesive at a surface thereof oriented at least in part as are said end surfaces of said truss to thereby be adhered to said flexible strip of material also in contact with said adhesive; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces.

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37. The dilator of claim 29 wherein a plurality of resilient members are provided in said truss.

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38. The dilator of claim 29 wherein a substantial portion of said intermediate segment is not so engaged with said outer wall tissues as are said end surfaces by said engagement means when concurrently in contact with those outer wall tissues.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted for entry in the above-identified application